

**July 15, 2003**  
**Work Session**

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, July 15, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. A full board was present. Chairman Maness called the meeting to order and the following was heard:

**Discussion of Mt. Gilead's Tank Overflow**

Mr. Matthews gave some background information about the tank at Mt. Gilead overflowing. He said Commissioner Corbett had received some calls regarding this situation so he asked Tim Carpenter, engineer from Hobbs Upchurch and John Everette, Plant Manager of the County Water Plant to look into it and give any suggestions and they were present at the meeting.

Mr. Carpenter said that the county had gone to some expense to repair this problem, which was at David Wilder meter vault. It solved the problem, but there was a reoccurrence of the tank overflowing because of the town hooking on to the line on Northview Road. Mr. Carpenter said this direct feed bypassed the correction that was made. He said he talked with the engineer from Mt. Gilead about cutting off the valve, which would eliminate the feed. He said the county has done things to correct this problem.

Commissioner Corbett said according to water department records the county has lost 35 million gallons of water, that is a lot of water.

Commissioner Corbett also asked about the water that is standing at the park in Mt. Gilead. Is the same problem or a different problem? Mr. Carpenter said this tank overflow is different. He said the water standing in the park is from a farm located near the park. Mr. Carpenter also mentioned the fact that we have been receiving excessive amounts of rain that has caused a lot of problems.

Commissioner Corbett asked about the tanks in Eldorado and Mt. Gilead.

Mr. Everette said he was unaware of the tank at Eldorado overflowing. Mr. Corbett said he has seen water in the side ditches several times where the tank is overflowing. Mr. Everette said he would check into it.

Chairman Maness said who pays for the water that overflows. Mr. Carpenter said it is subtracted from the bill. The county allows the towns for some overspill. Mr. Matthews said that is standard procedure for any overflow to be deducted from the bill.

Mr. Carpenter said the county has gone to some expense to fix this problem. Chairman Maness asked when will this valve be cut off, tomorrow? Mr. Carpenter said it is Mt. Gilead's tank so we can't cut it off. He said I am talking with Lee Humphrey's the engineer for Mt. Gilead about this.

Chairman Maness asked about the Wadeville tank.

Mr. Carpenter said the tank at Wadeville needs an altitude valve, which could cause its own set of problems. Mr. Everette said he contacted Mr. Carpenter for his opinion regarding this. Mr. Carpenter said we are talking about the altitude valve and the cost of it.

**Commissioner Bostic**

Commissioner Bostic asked the Chairman if he could speak. The chairman gave him permission. He said he had been asked to be put on the agenda and he wasn't. Mr. Bostic said this is the

beginning of a new physical year. He said some things have happened and he has been tricked into some things.

Commissioner Bostic said a couple of years ago, the commissioners needed a 2 cent tax increase to fund education. They said, if you agree ½ cent will go to fund the Montgomery County Fellows Scholarship Program. He said at the first chance the board got, the program was elevated.

He said another issue the board needed a unanimous vote on was the water to go to Robbins. Mr. Bostic said I told the board I would agree to this if the board agreed to give our citizens water. He said the list was published in the paper. He said as soon as the vote the board came back and deleted roads especially in the Dry Creek area. He said all of you knew the water line wasn't on Hwy 731 and couldn't get to Dry Creek, especially our engineer who should know the system better than anyone else. He said the Montgomery Herald accused me of being a racist.

He said the water was tested at Dry Creek and some pretty bad situations were found. He said the County Manager didn't see the necessity of showing the board that report. Commissioner Bostic said if fighting for the people makes me a racist, then I am one.

Mr. Bostic said a young Hispanic girl came up to him and said that she couldn't have her "Coming of Age" party at the Ag Center because she didn't belong to a certain group. He said we need to do something.

Mr. Bostic said that the board has given money to Brutonville and Highland Community Centers and now they can't spend the money without a problem.

Commissioner Bostic said when I asked to be on the agenda, it is not a frivolous request.

County Manager Lee Matthews said he apologized. He said the message I received was that you needed an update on the water line at Dry Creek. I knew Tim Carpenter would be here and I assumed we could wait until the meeting and he could answer any questions you had.

#### **Discussion of Voice Logging Recorder**

Director of 911 Communications Ron Adams and Sheriff Jordan were present to discuss the status of the Voice Logging Recorder in the 911 Center. Mr. Adams brought information about a new Voice Logging Recorder that includes a one year warranty and a basic service contract in the amount of \$33,000. Mr. Adams said that he checked with different vendors and he also checked on leasing, but the bottom line is that leasing would be more expensive.

Sheriff Jordan asked Mr. Adams what the balance was in the 911 Fund. Mr. Adams said in excess of \$450,000. He said that money is generated from the \$1.10 from the phone bills.

Commissioner Bostic said if we have that much why can't we lower the rate on the citizens phone bill, don't we set the rate? Mr. Adams said I am not educated in that area. County Manager Lee Matthews said he wasn't sure about that.

Commissioner Bostic said we need to drop the rate back. He said we increased it for Enhanced 911.

Mr. Adams said that is a fine suggestion.

Mr. Adams said he received notice from Motorola that the actual 911 equipment that we purchased from them they were not going to make anymore. He said it is a technology thing. He said it is working fine, we have had it since before the center opened. Mr. Adams said we will probably have to be looking into replacing this in the near future.

Commissioner Bostic said if you try to keep up with technology you would be buying something everyday.

Commissioner Morris asked Mr. Adams to look into the cost of replacing this equipment. Mr. Adams said he would.

Chairman Maness asked Mr. Adams if everything is good with the 911 Center? Mr. Adams said yes. Mr. Maness asked if the cellular 911 is working? Mr. Adams said we are working on it, and from what he hears from other coordinators it is quite an undertaking.

Commissioner Corbett asked for an update on the street signs. Mr. Adams said that is really Kris Hernandez' area. She works with county maintenance on getting the signs up.

Commissioner Morris asked if there was any problem with Mrs. Hernandez' system updating to the 911 System. Mr. Adams said no, it is working wonderfully. He said Kris is keeping it up-to-date.

Commissioner Morris said she feels the county needs to get the new equipment for the 911 Center if we have the money.

Commissioner Knight asked who is responsible for the signs? Mr. Adams said Kris Hernandez in the 911 Addressing Department. Mr. Knight asked who does she work with or for? Sheriff Jordan says she works well with us, she is her own supervisor. He said she does a good job.

Mr. Adams explained that in the beginning of the addressing process there was a team of people doing this. He said Kaye Creger-Williams worked in the office and there was a guy that helped her do the physical work. He said now it is only Kris.

Commissioner Knight said with all of this money if we need more manpower, then we need to hire more people. Mr. Adams said we can't spend the 911 Funds on salaries, only for equipment. Commissioner Knight asked if it could pay for the signs. Mr. Adams said it does.

Sheriff Jordan said we respond if Mrs. Hernandez needs help. He said that any signs in the city limits are maintained by the city. He said there have been problems with vandalism of signs within the city limits.

Chairman Maness asked if we have a problem with vandalism? Sheriff Jordan and Mr. Adams said not much. Mr. Adams said we have a problem with the mowers.

Commissioner Knight said is there a problem with reporting signs down? Mr. Adams said I am not sure but I circulated a memo to my people to ask them to report any signs that were down to Kris. He said Kris wears a lot of hats. He said a big part of her job is maintaining the database and keeping in contact with Sprint, which is an ongoing thing. Mr. Adams said perhaps looking into hiring some physical help in the future.

Chairman Maness asked if the problem in the Pekin area had been corrected. Mr. Matthews said yes. Commissioner Corbett said the problem on Troy-Candor Road had also been corrected.

Chairman Maness told Mr. Adams how much he appreciated his work at the 911 Center. He said when my son had his accident it was nice to be able to call 911.

The board agreed to carry the Voice Logging Recorder request to the regular session.

### **Water Sampling Project**

John Fowlkes, Environmental Health Coordinator, Kathleen Devore-Jones, Health Director, and Terri Stamper, Board of Health Chairman were all present along with Dr. Ken Rudo the State Toxicologist to discuss a proposed water sampling project.

Mr. Fowlkes said he took this program to the June Board of Health meeting. He said this program will test ground water. He said the charge currently to do a water test is \$25. He also explained that the test will show bacteria or arsenic. Mr. Fowlkes said he feels this is the reason that there are only an average of three water tests done per month because of the price. He said he hopes the board will waive the fee. He said only 35% of county residents are on well water. He said we plan to get two interns from the college to do the study. He said we hope this will educate the citizens. He said it will probably take one to two years.

Commissioner Corbett asked what can they do if the water tests positive for bacteria or arsenic in the water? Mr. Fowlkes said if bacteria is found bleach will help. He said Dr. Rudo will speak on arsenic in a little bit.

Commissioner Morris asked if this testing will be voluntary or mandatory? Mr. Fowlkes said voluntary. Commissioner Morris said I thought in the proposal it would cost \$5. He said the Board of Health did discuss that.

Mrs. Jones said she hopes that the state will give us money.

Commissioner Bostic asked about the program that would give the county \$50 to test well water. Commissioner Morris said I thought Environmental Health was going to the program. Mr. Fowlkes said we planned on that but after the Board of Health meeting we went to the college and the school system and asked about an intern. Mrs. Jones said that Dr. Kirk and Dr. Suggs were in agreement with this.

Commissioner Corbett said what if one person has three wells would it cost \$15. Mr. Fowlkes said it is each well, yes.

Chairman Maness asked what kind of things do you find? Mr. Fowlkes said the chart in your packet Arsenic and Coliform.

Commissioner Corbett asked where it is found the most in the county? Mr. Fowlkes said the western side of the county is worse.

Dr. Ken Rudo, State Toxicologist introduced himself to the board. He said he has been doing this for fourteen years. He said the problem with arsenic has completely blown everything else out of the water. He said the studies that have been done on the effects of arsenic have been actual human studies. He said the studies show high rates of cancer including lung, skin, and bladder

cancers. He said there are also non cancerous effects such as circulation effects and neurological effects.

Dr. Rudo provided the following report:

ARSENIC CONTAMINATION OF PRIVATE WELLS IN  
NORTH CAROLINA  
KENNETH RUDO, Ph.D., STATE TOXICOLOGIST

Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch  
NC Department of Health and Human Services

INTRODUCTION

In response to peer-reviewed scientific human health data that indicated an increased cancer and non-cancer risk from consumption of arsenic contaminated well water, OEEB has undertaken a sampling program and identified over 660 arsenic contaminated drinking water wells since January, 2000 (Table 1). In many areas of North Carolina, natural geologic formations and gold mining operations have resulted in widespread arsenic contamination of groundwater aquifers in several North Carolina counties (Table 2). Over 90% of the wells sampled in some areas (Union County) have contaminated wells. OEEB has recommended a groundwater standard of 0.02 ppb in response to the significant cancer risk at the current North Carolina groundwater standard of 50 ppb and the public drinking standard of 10 ppb. In addition, North Carolina wells identified as contaminated with arsenic may have a cancer risk as high as 1 in 3 for a long term exposure (Tables 3 -4 ), in addition to being in the range of known non-cancer effects. Long exposure times may also be occurring for many North Carolina residents who have older wells recently identified as being contaminated because of naturally occurring groundwater contamination of arsenic. For these residents, cancer risks are of a greater concern because their exposures may be entering the latency periods for arsenic induced cancers. It is because of the significance of the cancer and non- cancer risks that OEEB continues the sampling program coupled with a risk evaluation process for each contaminated well in order to proactively protect the health of North Carolina residents, in addition, a federal bio-monitoring grant for arsenic exposed residents is being written by OEEB to further identify and protect North Carolina residents who may be at risk from arsenic contaminated drinking water.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Arsenic is the 20th most abundant element in the earth's crust and can also be found as a byproduct of the smelting process for copper, lead, cobalt and most importantly, gold. Its current primary use, though now being phased out, is in wood preservatives, such as chromated copper arsenate. Major past uses were agricultural pesticides in the form of organic and inorganic arsenicals (1-3).

Drinking water, diet and occupational exposures are the primary paths for human exposure to arsenic. The sources of arsenic are man-made and natural. Organic and inorganic forms of arsenic are present in food, water, and soil. Inorganic forms of arsenic (arsenate {As (V)}, and arsenite {As (III)}), along with some organic arsenic compounds, are found in terrestrial environments with arsenate and arsenite being the predominate forms found in water (1-3 ).

In humans, blood, urine and hair are biomarkers for measuring arsenic levels. Inorganic arsenic is readily absorbed from the human gastrointestinal tract but is poorly absorbed through skin. Humans readily metabolize inorganic arsenic to organic forms which until recently were believed to be the less toxic form of arsenic. New data has shown exceptions to this past hypothesis. Recent studies have shown that organic arsenic may be a more potent liver toxin and one organic arsenic metabolite may be the putative carcinogenic form of arsenic in humans.

Arsenic toxicity is clearly defined in a voluminous human database in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. EPA has characterized arsenic as a human carcinogen. Studies have shown that arsenic exposure in drinking water may cause skin (Figure 1 bladder and lung cancers in humans. Other cancer sites identified in humans are liver, kidney, prostate, colon and stomach. Cancer studies have been done in many countries, including the United States, with the most detailed studies occurring in populations in Taiwan over the last 30 years. These cancer studies have been utilized to compute public drinking water and groundwater standards for arsenic focusing on skin, lung and bladder cancers, as the available data for these tumor sites are the most compelling (1-3 ).

Non-cancer arsenic effects in human populations have also been widely studied in the peer-reviewed literature. Significant non-cancer endpoints in humans include cardiovascular effects from short and long-term exposures. A condition known as Blackfoot's Disease, which is characterized by a loss of circulation in the hands and feet, was seen in Taiwan where there were exposures to high arsenic concentrations in drinking water. Similar levels were seen in several drinking water wells in North Carolina (Table 3). Adverse GI-tract effects have also been reported. Hepatic effects have been detected after oral exposure to inorganic arsenic. This exposure may lead to fibrosis and tenderness of the liver. A very common and characteristic effect of inorganic arsenic ingestion is a pattern of skin changes that include hyperkeratosis and the formation of hyperkeratotic warts or corns on the palms, And soles, along with areas of hyperpigmentation on the face, neck and back (Figure 2-3 This dermal effect has been widely reported in the literature at levels seen in some arsenic contaminated wells in North Carolina (Table 3). Other studies indicate that short and long term oral exposure may injure the nervous system. Repeated low-level exposure may result in peripheral neuropathies, which may begin as numbness in the hands and feet and may progress causing muscle weakness. This is a concern in North Carolina wells contaminated with arsenic, especially if the source is naturally occurring because of the long duration of exposure combined with identified levels sufficient to cause the neurological effects described above (Table 3).

Drinking water sampling data as well as duration of exposure are reviewed by OEEB to determine the health risks from consumption of arsenic contaminated drinking water. With other toxic contaminants found in drinking water, they are found to usually be from man-made sources. In the case of arsenic, over 80% of the wells found contaminated are believed to be from naturally occurring arsenic. Arsenic has one of the highest cancer risk levels of any water contaminant. In Table 4, the risk levels at different concentrations are listed. When compared to the OEEB safe limit of 1 in 1,000,000 utilized in setting groundwater standards in North Carolina, it is evident that even at the detection limit of 1 ppb, the cancer risk level is significantly high. When compared to the OEEB safe limit, levels 1 ppb and above should be considered unacceptable from a public health standpoint. This significant cancer risk level, even at the detection limit, coupled with the long duration of exposure that may exist in older wells contaminated with naturally occurring arsenic, produces a human health risk so significant that OEEB has undertaken an aggressive well sampling program to identify contaminated wells and to give risk communication health advice, and alternate water information to residents of North Carolina.

In Table 1, 662 drinking water wells have been identified as contaminated with arsenic since January, 2000. Table 2 breaks down the number of contaminated wells by county with 49 counties identifying contaminated wells. Orange, Union, Stanly, Moore and Lincoln counties had the highest number of arsenic contaminated wells. These counties correlate well with the areas in Figure 4 showing geologic formations favorable to naturally occurring arsenic contaminated groundwater. Table 3 illustrates some of the most highly contaminated wells and the degree of risk, both cancer and non-cancer. The cancer risks are as high as 1 in 2 to 1 in 5 in several wells in three North Carolina counties, and are at levels that correlate with non-cancer effects from arsenic exposure. Table 4 lists the latest National Academy of Sciences cancer risk values for arsenic (4).

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Over 660 arsenic contaminated drinking water wells in North Carolina have been identified since January, 2000. The highest number of wells occurs in five North Carolina counties that coincide with geologic formations indicative of naturally occurring arsenic in groundwater. Levels of arsenic in many of the wells in these counties pose a significantly high cancer risk, as high as 1 in 2 to 1 in 5 in some cases (Table 3), many at the present time because of the long duration of exposure to arsenic in these drinking water wells because of naturally occurring arsenic. In addition, the scientific literature has identified a potentially significant non-cancer risk from arsenic exposure in many of the wells in North Carolina with levels over 30 ppb, once again due to the long exposure duration from wells naturally contaminated with arsenic. In Union County alone, over 90% of the wells tested have arsenic contamination. It is clear from the health data, and the well sampling data that arsenic in drinking water wells in North Carolina may pose a very serious cancer and non-cancer health risk, especially in several counties and where the contamination is naturally occurring, and in some cases, at the present time. This is a further concern in North Carolina because there are over 4 million people in the state who use groundwater as their drinking water source. Possibly as many as a million people live in areas that from a geologic standpoint, may be impacted by arsenic in their well water. If this is the case, there exists the potential for a significantly serious health problem in North Carolina that needs to be addressed now. At the present time, budgetary shortages at the state and county level have prevented a full scale well testing program in North Carolina that would identify arsenic contaminated wells. In addition, these same monetary problems have prevented any bio-monitoring and epidemiological investigation into the extent of this potentially serious health problem, and any subsequent treatment of possible cases of arsenic toxicity. Both issues need to be addressed so that health officials can determine the extent of the arsenic problem in North Carolina, and assist residents in need of health services in response to arsenic toxicity.

## REFERENCES

**TABLE 1 – TOTAL NUMBER OF DRINKING WATER WELLS  
CONTAMINATED WITH ARSENIC IN NORTH CAROLINA  
(January, 2000 – April, 2003)**

Total Number of Wells	<10 ppb	>10 <50 ppb	>50 <100 ppb	>100 ppb
662	511	123	19	9

**TABLE 2 – COUNTY BY COUNTY DRINKING WATER WELL  
CONTAMINATION IN NORTH CAROLINA  
(January, 2000 – April, 2003)**

County	Number of Contaminated Wells	County	Number of Contaminated Wells
Alamance	12	Nash	1
Anson	15	New Hanover	19
Avery	1	Northampton	1
Bertie	4	Orange	199
Brunswick	1	Person	2
Cabarrus	5	Polk	1
Catawba	3	Randolph	8
Chatham	13	Richmond	2
Cherokee	2	Rockingham	4
Cleveland	4	Rowan	10
Cumberland	5	Rutherford	1
Currituck	16	Sampson	5
Dare	7	Stanly	69
Davidson	7	Surry	1
Davie	1	Union	130
Duplin	1	Wake	11
Durham	2	Watauga	5
Franklin	1	Wayne	1
Gaston	10	Wilson	1
Granville	3		
Greene	1		
Grover	1		

**TABLE 3 – TEN DRINKING WATER WELLS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS  
OF ARSENIC CONTAMINATION  
(January, 2000 – April, 2003)**

County	As Level (ppb)	Long Term Risk (National Academy of Science Estimate)	Potential Non-Cancer Risk
Union	630	1 in 2 persons	Yes
Lincoln	477	1 in 3 persons	Yes
Rowan	309	1 in 5 persons	Yes
Union	290	1 in 5 persons	Yes
Lincoln	147	1 in 10 persons	Yes
Stanly	122	1 in 12 persons	Yes
Stanly	105	1 in 14 persons	Yes

Dr. Rudo said we will be faced with levels that are unpredictable. He said Stanly County has had an aggressive program. He said my point is that the best way to protect them is to test water and help the citizens.

Dr. Rudo explained that it will be a while before the State Environmental Health gets involved because it is a political issue. They have given us instructions to treat this as a general health risk.

He said when people get off of water the effects go away.

He said I can offer you myself. Dr. Rudo said that he will be glad to talk to people about their test results. He said drinking water is something that is taken for granted, and when you say that it is contaminated, people get very upset.

He spoke of a lady who lives on Lake Tillery who had her water tested and found there was arsenic in it, and she had lived there for nine years. Commissioner Corbett asked what did you tell her? Dr. Rudo said I gave her information to take to her physician about arsenic exposure and I recommended a filtration system.

Commissioner Bostic asked about fecal contamination and its effects. Dr. Rudo said the affects depend. He said if you have been drinking the water over a period of time, but if someone would come to your house and drink the water you could get very ill.

Mr. Tim Carpenter asked if the test includes bacteria testing? Dr. Rudo said it could, but it usually doesn't. Mrs. Jones said they plan to do both tests.

Commissioner Corbett asked if wells will be condemned? Mrs. Stamper said the county doesn't have an ordinance to condemn wells.

Commissioner Morris said she agrees with dropping the fee, but she doesn't feel the plan is firm.

Mrs. Stamper said the test will not be mandatory. We will solicit volunteers.

Dr. Rudo said we will also advertise.

Commissioner Bostic said what if we refund the \$25 to all that have paid the fee and test all wells. Mr. Fowlkes said he would love to do that but it would be difficult.

Mr. Carpenter mentioned Capacity Grants.

Mrs. Jones said they are expecting a grant in the amount of \$3,000 they hope to use to boost Environmental Health's budget.

Mrs. Jones said we are not really ready to start. Will you come back to us with a plan? Mrs. Jones asked what should I tell the people when they call because when they read it in the paper we are going to start getting a lot of calls. Commissioner Corbett asked what date it would be ready to be approved. Commissioner Morris and Chairman Maness said maybe we need to wait for a plan. Mrs. Jones said we can probably have something ready in a month. Commissioner Knight suggested that the board go ahead and reduce the fee. Commissioner Bostic said why not have no fee? Mrs. Jones said there is no money in the budget. Commissioner Bostic said we have the money. Commissioner Knight said we could charge the citizens that request the test \$25 and make the test free if we request it. Mr. Fowlkes said there are a lot of ways to do it.



Commissioner Corbett asked if they had thought about mileage. Mrs. Jones said Dr. Kirk didn't think it would be a problem.

Chairman Maness said he agreed with Commissioner Knight's idea of reducing the fee.

Commissioner Knight said when people see this in the paper, they are going to panic and we need to educate them.

Dr. Rudo said when the test results come back, send the calls to me and I will take the steam out and it will be up to me.

Commissioner Bostic said we will spend in excess of \$25,000 for technology, but not for public health.

Mrs. Stamper said if we receive the grant, the fee will be waived.

The board agreed to carry this forward to the regular session.

### **County Manager's Report**

- *County Commissioners Meeting* - beginning August 14 in Greensboro at the Koury Convention Center. Commissioner Bostic said we don't have any money to do.
- *Rescue Squad Flag Pole* – he announced that the Rescue Squad was planning on putting a flagpole and granite marker at the Rescue building. Commissioner Bostic asked which flag were they going to fly? Mr. Matthews said I assume the American flag. Chairman Maness said maybe the North Carolina flag. Mr. Matthews said they have received funding, but would appreciate anything the board could do.
- *Rescue Squad Trailer Title* – Chairman Maness asked where we stand on the title on the trailer? Mr. Matthews said he has been in contact with the state folks, but they haven't received any final answer on it. Commissioner Morris said why can't they go ahead and use it? Chairman Maness said they can, but they don't want to go ahead and fix it up without a title. Chairman Maness asked the board if they want to vote on it now? Commissioner Bostic said he wouldn't vote until he knows which flag they are going to fly.
- *Exotic Animal Ordinance* – Mr. Matthews said that Commissioner Corbett brought this up. He said there is a guy next to the Uwharrie Community Building who has a bear, a buffalo, gees, etc. Mr. Corbett wanted to know what the board thought of the county getting an Exotic Animal Ordinance. Commissioner Knight asked what is the problem? Commissioner Corbett said would you like to have lions and tigers next door to you? Mr. Knight said there are some dogs that scare me when I try to walk. Commissioner Corbett suggested to Mr. Matthews that he check with Anson County. The board agreed to wait for further information.
- *Town of Troy* – Mr. Matthews said Jamie Justice, Town Manager had approached him about the county purchasing the Town Hall. He said I will be bringing more information back in the future.
- *Closing Anon Street* – Mr. Matthews said that Nancy Shaw came to see him and requested that a street be closed. He said there is a procedure that needs to be followed by the board and he asked if they wanted to pursue it. Chairman Maness

said we need to look into it. Commissioner Morris said she feels that Lee needs to start the procedure. Mr. Matthews said it is a wooded area. Commissioner Knight said why was it declared a road to start with? Mr. Matthews said the road was platted but never opened. Commissioner Morris said there is a lot of this. Commissioner Knight said this is a touchy situation. He said I have property that I can't get to because I can't get the right of way from other owners. Chairman Maness explained that through this process the adjoining property owners will be notified. Chairman Maness asked Commissioner Knight and Mr. Matthews to get together and find out more information and bring back to the board. They agreed.

- *Request for Proposals for Banking Services* – Mr. Matthews said he had some area banks asking if the county was going to send out RFPs for banking services. He asked the board if this is something they would be interested in now or wait. Chairman Maness said he thinks it is a great idea and he said the interest rate has dropped again. Commissioner Knight asked Mr. Matthews if he checked on the refinancing? Mr. Matthews said he did and according to the LGC it wasn't feasible at the time, but since the rate has dropped again, it might be.
- *Election Plan* – Mr. Matthews said the court approved the Election plan for the County.
- *Alcoa Relicensing* – Mr. Matthews said that Alcoa plans to draw down Narrows Dam 15 feet in December of this year when it will be the least amount of impact. Commissioner Corbett asked how long it would be down? Mr. Matthews said he wasn't sure but he could call and find out.

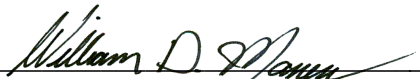
#### **Items Carried Forward To The Regular Session**

*The following items carried forward to the regular session:*

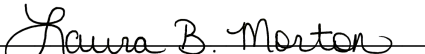
- Water Sampling Project
- Voice Logging Recorder

The board agreed to revisit the issues at the next work session that Commissioner Bostic brought up. They are as follows: list of roads, Highland and Brutonville, and the Ag Center Policy.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
William D. Maness, Chairman



  
Laura B. Morton, Clerk to the Board